

Photograph: Harmony Haskins, White House Historical Association



On Exhibit: Latrobe's Work at the White House



The newest exhibit at the White House Visitor Center provides insights into the valuable contributions of architect Benjamin H. Latrobe to the "President's House."

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson invited Latrobe to accept a position to direct the public works as the "Surveyor of Public Buildings" at an annual salary of \$1,700.

For six years, Latrobe worked on the unfinished mansion under President Jefferson's supervision. The improvements resulted in repairs to a badly leaking roof, installation of a grand staircase, installation of water closets, landscaping the

grounds, and the design of classical East and West Colonnades, both of which remain today.

Latrobe custom designed neoclassical furniture in the Grecian style to fill the Oval Drawing Room (now the Blue Room). The Madisons entertained frequently and Dolley required an elegant interior for her weekly "levees."

These social gatherings generated much talk in Washington society and became a valuable tool for President James Madison's promotion of his political agenda.

The Visitor Center is proud to provide a rare glimpse into the contributions to the White House by one of America's first professional architects.



Music Featured at Visitor Center

When the leaves start to fall it's time for the Military Bands to perform in the Visitors Center! This is the eighth season of band performances held on Sundays through March.

The United States Air Force Band is known as "America's Band." The band travels in excess of 100,000 miles a year performing over 500 concerts. All members of the Band are full-time professional Air Force musicians working in support of Air Force Reserve recruiting and community relations objectives. Their various ensembles include a variety of chamber music, and traditional sounds of New Orleans flavored jazz. They even have a Bagpipe Band that performs in authentic Scottish attire!

The United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own") was founded in 1922 by Army Chief of Staff General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing to emulate European military bands he heard during World War I. The band continues to play an important role in events of national and international significance, staging performances throughout the fifty states, in our Nation's Capital and overseas.

Regular performing units include The United States Army Ceremonial Band, the United States Army Chorus, the United States Army Herald Trumpets and the United States Army Strings.

The United States Navy Band is comprised of 163 enlisted musicians and three officers. Based at the historic Washington, D.C. Navy Yard, the organization features a concert-ceremonial unit and four distinct speciality groups – the "Sea Chanters" chorus, the "Commodores" jazz ensemble, the "Country Current" country-blue grass group and "The Cruisers," a rock ensemble. The Band also features several chamber music groups.

Other military bands include "The President's Own" United States Marine Corps Band, the United States Coast Guard Band based in New London, CT and the United States military academy bands at Annapolis, MD, Colorado Springs, CO and West Point, NY.



Around President's Park



Sherman Monument

Directly south of the Treasury Building sits Sherman Park. The monument of General William Tecumseh Sherman consists of a fourteen foot high bronze equestrian statue of General William Tecumseh Sherman. The square platform also holds a bronze soldier at each corner representing the four branches of the Army – infantry, artillery, cavalry and engineers. This site was chosen because General Sherman was reported to have stood there while his reviewing returning Civil War troops in 1865.

The monument was dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt on October 15, 1903.


Around the base of the plaza's terrace is a mosaic inlaid with the names of Sherman's war battles. Relief medallions of generals who served under Sherman's command are located on the east and west side of the statue.

JANUARY


THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

The Visitor Center is closed for the New Years Day holiday.


DAILY, JANUARY 6 – 10

 "The Most Demanding, Unpaid, Unelected Job in America" – Join a Park Ranger and learn about the changing roles of the first lady over the past 200 years. *Program begins at 12 noon.*


WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

 "Save Our History: The White House Celebrates its 200th Anniversary" – View the changes in the President's House since John Adams moved there in 1800. *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*


SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

 "Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on January 24, February 14 and 28, March 13 and 27.*


SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

 The U.S. Army Band's Brass Trio opens this year's winter concert series. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*

DAILY, JANUARY 13 – 17

 "Washington's Washington" – Discover how a dismal swampy lowland developed into the beautiful parkland that surrounds the White House. *Program begins at 12 noon.*


SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

 The U.S. Army Tuba Quartet presents a special one-hour program. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*




Zero Milestone


DAILY, JANUARY 20 – 24

 "A Walk Around the Park" – Join a Park Ranger for a stroll through beautiful President's Park. See the Boy Scout Memorial, Zero Milestone and other monuments and memorials in the Park. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25


 The U.S. Army Band Saxophone Duo gives a special musical performance. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*

DAILY, JANUARY 27 – 31


 "Washington Canal" – Discover how Constitution Avenue changed from the "gateway to the west" into a major traffic artery. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

FEBRUARY


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

 The U.S. Army Band will give a one-hour musical performance. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*


DAILY, FEBRUARY 2 – 6

 "The Vacant Chair" – Join a Park Ranger and hear the tales of White House children that tragically left us way too soon. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4


 "Abraham Lincoln – Preserving the Union" Follow Lincoln's quest to the presidency. *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*

DAILY, FEBRUARY 9 – 13


 "Harry Truman" – Learn about the little known, but gutsy vice president from Missouri who very unexpectedly became president on April 12, 1945. *Program begins at 12 noon.*




SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

 "Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on February 28.*


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

 The U.S. Army Band Brass Quartet arrives at the Visitor Center for a one-hour musical fanfare. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*


DAILY, FEBRUARY 16 – 19

 "Presidential Assassination Attempts" – A Park Ranger will present a program outlining who lived and who died after attempts on Presidents' lives. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

DAILY, FEBRUARY 24 – 28

 "The Honor of your Presence..." Join "the preparations" for a visiting dignitary's state arrival ceremony and a state dinner in this fascinating ranger-led interpretive program. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29

 The U.S. Army Band String Trio gives a one-hour musical performance. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour




Video Presentation




Concert Series

MARCH


DAILY, MARCH 2 – 6

 "Washington's Washington" – Join a Park Ranger discussion on how a dismal swampy lowland developed into a beautiful parkland surrounding the White House. *Program begins at 12 noon.*


WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

 "Women's Right to Vote" – Women won the right to vote in 1920. Why did it take so long to pass the 19th Amendment? *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*


SUNDAY, MARCH 7

 The U.S. Army Band Woodwind Quintet treats all visitors to a one-hour musical performance. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*


DAILY, MARCH 9 – 13

 "A Walk Around the Park" – Join a Park Ranger for a stroll through beautiful President's Park. See the Boy Scout Memorial, Zero Milestone and other monuments and memorials in the Park. *Program begins at 12 noon.*


SATURDAY, MARCH 13

 "Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on March 27.*


SUNDAY, MARCH 14

 The U.S. Army Band String Trio returns for another lovely performance. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*


DAILY, MARCH 16 – 20

 "Crazy or Not..." – Join a Park Ranger and hear about First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. Is her life a story of tragedy? *Program begins at 12 noon.*


SUNDAY, MARCH 21

 The U.S. Air Force Band presents a stirring performance. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*


DAILY, MARCH 22 – 26

 "Memories and Mayhem" – Join a Park Ranger and hear about the interesting youngsters that have called the White House "home." *Program begins at 12 noon.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

 The U.S. Army Band Woodwind Quintet will present a one-hour musical delight. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*

DAILY, MARCH 29 – 31

 "Presidential Assassination Attempts" – Join a Park Ranger and discover the aftermath of attacks on the lives of several Presidents. *Program begins at 12 noon.*



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at whho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.